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TIM RYAN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

November 22, 2019

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

The Honorable Robert Wilke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20420

Secretary Wilke:

I write to you with serious concerns about construction contracts for a new VA clinic in my district in Youngstown, Ohio. It is essential that prevailing wages be paid on all contracts related to the clinic, and I seek your assurance that the Davis-Bacon act is being fully applied.

The new community-based outpatient clinic will be a great benefit to the veterans community in Youngstown. It will provide a much-needed increase to 35,000 square feet and allow the VA to provide specialized care that is hindered in the current location. I appreciate your support for the Youngstown veterans and recognition of the need for a state-of-the-art facility.

Yet, I am concerned that union laborers are being sidelined in the construction of the clinic. Not only are prevailing wages required under the Davis-Bacon Act for all Federal construction contracts, but they help the veterans in my community, who work in the construction industry in significant numbers.

Please answer the following questions:

- 1) Are prevailing wages, as defined in the Davis-Bacon Act, being applied to all construction contracts for the construction of the new Youngstown VA clinic to be located at 1815 Belmont Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio?
- 2) If not, what justification is there to avoid the letter and spirit of the Davis-Bacon Act, which is intended to ensure fair wages in all Federal contracts?
- 3) Can you offer your assurance that all future contracts related to the construction of the Youngstown clinic will apply prevailing wage requirements?

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

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